

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 067291

R 280734Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8197

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION EXCHANGE CHARGES ON
BALUCHISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 6138

1. KARACHI PRESS GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO EXCHANGE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BETWEEN FEDERAL LAW MINISTER PIRZADA AND OPPOSITION REPORTED REFTEL. KARACHI PRESS HAS REMAINED ALMOST SILENT, HOWEVER, ON ANY ARMY ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN SINCE MAY 15 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCE HAD COME TO "STAND STILL".

2. VERNACULAR PRESS HAS REPORTED REGULARLY, IN LOW-KEY MANNER, THE STEADY SERIES OF INSURGENT INCIDENTS SUCH AS BUS LOOTING, IN DISAFFECTED AREAS OF BALUCHISTAN, WHICH HAVE OCCURRED OVER PAST MONTHS. THESE REPORTS, COUPLED WITH PIRZADA'S ADMISSION THAT 14 INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE MAY 15, STRONGLY INDICATE THAT INSURGENT ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT SAME LEVEL OR HIGHER COMPARED
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WITH AS THAT PRIOR TO MAY 15.

3. KARACHI DAWN JUNE 27 REPORTED THAT DELEGATION OF OPPOSITION MNA'S LED BY NAP CHIEF WALI KHAN WILL VISIT BALUCHISTAN JUNE 29 TO INQUIRE INTO BOMBING CHARGES.

4. ALTHOUGH CONSULATE GENERAL HAS NO POSITIVE INFORMATION TO CONFIRM STAND OF EITHER SIDE IN DEBATE, FROM HERE IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANYWHERE NEAR 850 DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED IN SPARSELY POPULATED BALUCHISTAN AS RESULT OF AIR OR OTHER OPERATIONS. ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES, WHO HAS TALKED TO NUMBER OF TRUCK DRIVERS IN KARACHI WHO REGULARLY MAKE TRIPS TO QUETTA AND OTHER PARTS OF BALUCHISTAN, REPORTS THAT NONE OF THESE DRIVERS HAVE ANY WORD OF ANY EXTRAORDINARY MILITARY ACTIVITY SUCH AS DEATH 850 PERSONS WOULD INVOLVE. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE FROM LACK OF EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY THAT GOP VERSION OF INCIDENTS AND ITS CLAIM THAT ONLY 12 MARRI TRIBESMEN KILLED PROBABLY CLOSER TO MARK THAN OPPOSITION ALLEGATION IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

5. CONGEN OVER NEXT FEW DAYS WILL ATTEMPT GATHER DISCREETLY FURTHER INFORMATION THIS AREA AS OPPORTUNITIES OCCUR.
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